

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4625

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 5258

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA (STOUT, J.W.) (ALTERMAN, S.) BE, EI, UK, NL,
FR, EAIR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CAB OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 217975, 224867

SUMMARY: OFFICIALS IN DUTCH CIVIL AVIATION SERVICE (RLD)
RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO REQUEST BY CAB ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
STOUT AND ALTERMAN FOR COOPERATION IN COMBATTING DISCOUNT SALES
OF AIRLINE TICKETS. THERE WAS ALSO USEFUL DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS
REGARDING AFFINITY CHARTERS AND ITCS. END SUMMARY.

1. STOUT AND ALTERMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF, MET FROM 1000
TO 1730 HOURS OCTOBER 28 WITH THREE OFFICIALS OF DUTCH
AVIATION SERVICE -- J. VAN ALPHEN, W.F. VAN GROOTEL, AND H.S.
LARIVE. STOUT AND ALTERMAN DESCRIBED INVESTIGATION BY SPECIAL
GRAND JURY IN NEW YORK OF ILLEGAL TICKET DISCOUNTING BEING DONE
BY INTERNATIONAL AIR CARRIERS AND TRAVEL AGENTS. THEY
EXPLAINED BACKGROUND, NAMELY THAT INADQUACY OF SUCCESSFUL
CAB SUITS AGAINST INDIVIDUAL AIRLINES MADE NECESSARY AN
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INDUSTRY-WIDE SOLUTION THROUGH COURT ACTION. POINTING OUT

THAT CAB IS GIVEN BY US LAW POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT THAT REGULATORY AGENCIES IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES DO NOT POSSESS, THEY OFFERED TO MAKE USE OF THESE POWERS IN RETURN FOR INFORMATION BY THEIR COUNTERPART AVIATION OFFICIALS ABROAD.

2. RLD MEMBERS REACTED FAVORABLY TO US PROPOSAL. THEY HAD MANY EXAMPLES OF THEIR OWN OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, AND SHARED WITH CAB VISITORS NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALLEGED VIOLATORS.

3. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO STOUT AND ALTERMAN WERE DETAILS OF POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT BY BELGIUM'S SABENA IN PLACING CHARTER PASSENGERS ON ITS SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. VAN GROOTEL SAID THAT RLD HAD REPORTS THAT PASSENGERS WITH CHARTER TICKETS HAVE BEEN TOLD AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT THAT THEIR FLIGHTS WERE CANCELLED AND THEN BEEN PLACED ON BOARD REGULAR SABENA FLIGHTS. SINCE REPORTS INDICATED THIS PRACTICE ALWAYS OCCURRED ON FRIDAYS, CAB OFFICIALS BELIEVED IT WOULD BE EASY TO RUN CHECK BY INTERVIEWING PASSENGERS WHO DEBARKED FROM SABENA FLIGHTS AT JFK INTERNATIONAL IN NEW YORK ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS. THEY PROPOSED TO DO THIS ON RETURN TO US.

4. STOUT AND ALTERMAN ALSO DESCRIBED US PROBLEMS WITH AFFINITY CHARTERS, WHICH DUTCH SAID THEY SHARED. ALTERMAN EXPLORED RLD ATTITUDE TOWARD ONE-STOP INCLUSIVE TOUR CHARTERS. VAN ALPHEN AND HIS COLLEAGUES INDICATED THAT SUCH ITCS WERE PREFERABLE FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT TO THREE-STOP ITCS AND INDICATED NO OPPOSITION IF US WERE TO ADOPT THEM.
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